



5. (Amended) The method according to claim 4 wherein the curable filling material is cured by irradiation with light through the optical fibre within the dental root canal

6. (Amended) The method according to claim 5 wherein the optical fibre used for activating the flowable photosensitiser is used for curing the curable filler material.

7. (Amended) The method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the optical fibre has a substantially isotropic tip.

8. (Amended) The method according to any one of the preceding claims in which the optical fibre has a spherical or cylindrical portion at or close to the distal end to spread light around and along the dental root canal.

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9. (Amended) A kit of articles for facilitating treatment of a dental root canal which comprises:

- (a) a flowable photosensitiser;
- (b) an optical fibre having a portion at or close to the distal end which is shaped to spread radiation around and along the dental root canal, the optical fibre being adapted for introduction into the dental root canal so that the tip is capable of reaching the apical third of the dental root canal, the optical fibre being connectable proximally with means for generating laser light; and
- (c) obturating means for sealing the dental root canal.

10. (Amended) The kit according to claim 9 wherein the flowable sensitizer includes a dilute aqueous solution of toluidine blue.

11. (Amended) The kit according to claim 9 wherein the obturating means includes at least one of a preformed plug of gutta percha, silver and titanium points.

12. (Amended) The kit according to any one of the claims 9 to 11, inclusive, wherein the flowable sensitizer is contained in a cartridge which includes a delivery tube for introducing the flowable photosensitizer into the dental root canal.

13. (Amended) The kit according to claim 9 wherein the obturating means includes a flowable, curable sealing composition.

14. (Amended) The kit according to any one of claims 8 to 13, inclusive, wherein the distal portion of the optical fibre includes a translucent polymer composition containing a minor amount of a dispersed pigment sufficient to cause said laser light transmitted by the optical fibre to be scattered around the dental root canal.

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16. (Amended) Use in the manufacture of articles for facilitating sterilising and sealing of a dental root canal, said articles comprising:

- (a) a flowable photosensitiser;
- (b) an optical fibre which is shaped and dimensioned to pass into a root canal to the region of the apex thereof, the optical fibre being connectable proximally with means for generating laser light at a wavelength which is capable of being absorbed by the flowable photosensitiser and the optical fibre having a distal portion which is shaped to spread said laser light around and along the dental root canal; and
- (c) obturating means for sealing the dental root canal.

17. (Amended) Use according to claim 16 in which the flowable photosensitiser is an aqueous dye.

18. (Amended) Use according to claim 17 in which the flowable photosensitiser is toluidine blue in aqueous solution.

19. (Amended) Use according to any one of claims 16 to 18, inclusive, in which the obturating means includes gutta percha supported on a rod-like support.

20. (Amended) Use according to any one of claims 16 to 18, inclusive, in which the obturating means includes a light curable resin composition.

21. (Amended) Use according to any one of claims 16 to 20, inclusive, wherein the distal portion of the optical fibre includes a translucent polymer composition containing a minor amount of a dispersed pigment sufficient to cause said laser light transmitted by the optical fibre to be scattered around the dental root canal.

Use claims

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